

# minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka  
September 2012

## Know where you vote; absentee voting starts September 21

**B**ECAUSE OF REDISTRICTING, MANY Minnetonka residents will be voting at different polling locations than they have in past elections. In July, postcards were mailed to all registered voters in the city with polling place information. While polling place maps will be posted at every polling place location, it's easy to save yourself the hassle of showing up at the wrong polling place by doing a little reconnaissance ahead of time!

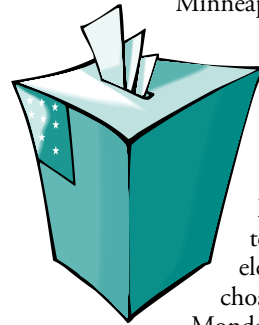
The simplest way to check your polling place location is to visit <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/> or call city hall at (952) 939-8200. Maps are published on the city's website and were included in the July and August editions of the *Minnetonka Memo*. Information also will be available at the city's Fire Department and Open House Event Tuesday, October 9, 5–8 p.m.

### Other election Information

Absentee voting for the November 6 general election starts Friday, September 21, and continues through Monday, November 5.

Unlike some other states, Minnesota does not offer early voting so that voters can avoid potential lines on Election Day by casting a ballot prior to November 6. Absentee voters must meet one of the following four reasons in order to be eligible to cast an absentee ballot:

- Absence from the precinct;
- Illness or disability;
- Religious observance; or
- Service as an election judge in another precinct.



Absentee voting may be done in person or by mail.

### In person

Minnetonka voters may vote absentee at Minnetonka City Hall or at the Hennepin County Government Center in Minneapolis during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Extended absentee voting hours will also be available at both locations Saturday, November 3, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Monday, November 5, until 5 p.m. The longest lines for absentee voting tend to occur the week before the election. In 2008 hundreds of people chose to absentee vote in person the Monday before the election.

### By Mail

Absentee voting may also be done by mail. Remember, the voted ballot must be received at city hall by Election Day for the vote to count. Please allow sufficient time for postal service delivery.

The first step to vote absentee by mail is to complete an application. Applications may be obtained by calling city hall, visiting the website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com), or by faxing a request to (952) 939-8244. Upon receipt of an application, the city will mail a ballot with instructions.

*Absentee Voting continued on page 2*

## Know the rules for election signs in Minnetonka

**W**ITH ELECTION SEASON HERE, it's important for Minnetonka

residents to be aware of the city's zoning regulations related to posting political campaign signs. Temporary political campaign signs could be posted any time after June 29, 2012, and must be removed by November 16, 2012.

Signs may not be posted on publicly owned land. On private land, the following rules for temporary political signs apply:

- Signs must be at least five feet from the edge of a public street.



- Signs must not obstruct driver visibility at intersections.
- Signs must have the approval of the underlying property owner.
- Signs must not be posted on fences, trees, shrubs, or public utility poles.
- Signs must not be located within the right-of-way of state or county roads.

On election days, the following rules apply to posting signs near polling places:

- On private property, signs must be 100 feet from the door where voters will enter.
- For public property, signs must not be within 100 feet of the building in which a polling place is situated, or anywhere on the public property.

If you have questions or complaints about campaign signs, please call the planning division at (952) 939-8290. ∞

## City Open House is Tuesday, October 9

**M**ARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE Minnetonka Fire Department and City Open House, set for Tuesday, October 9, from 5-8 p.m. at the Minnetonka Civic Center Campus, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Enjoy free food, fire truck rides (ages 4 and older) and a variety of other activities and entertainment. Look for a full schedule of events in the October *Minnetonka Memo*. We hope to see you there! ∞

## Absentee Voting, continued from p. 1

### Absentee ballot acceptance

It is very important that absentee voters follow the instructions included with the absentee ballot. If the required information is not provided by the voter and witness, by law the ballot must be rejected. In 2010, 45 Minnetonka voters cast unacceptable absentee ballots because statutorily required information was not included when the absentee ballot was submitted. If your absentee ballot is rejected, you will be notified and a replacement will be issued if there is enough time left for you to return it by the deadline to be counted.

### Pre-registering to vote

Minnesota allows voters to register to vote on Election Day at the polls. However, the lines can be long, so it is to your advantage to register before Election Day.

Pre-registration for the general election closes on October 16 to allow Hennepin County time to update the precinct voter lists for Election Day. Contact city hall for a voter registration application form if you would like to pre-register.

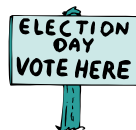
You will need to register if you:

- Have never registered.
- Have changed your name or address (including just moving to another apartment in the same building) since you last voted.
- Have not voted in four years.

### Voter turnout

Minnetonka traditionally has a very high voter turnout for presidential-year elections – usually between 80 to 90 percent. The longest lines on Election Day tend to occur first thing in the morning when many voters show up to vote before going to work, so please plan accordingly.

If you have any questions about this fall's election please call (952) 939-8200. ☺



## Crosswalk safety for drivers and pedestrians

**N**OW THAT SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION, it's a good time to be reminded of how to use crosswalks properly, whether you are driving or walking. Both drivers and pedestrians share the responsibility to use caution and avoid accidents.

### State law says:

- Where traffic-control signals are not in place or in operation, the driver of a vehicle shall stop to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a marked crosswalk or at an intersection with no marked crosswalk.
- The driver must remain stopped until the pedestrian has passed the lane in which the vehicle is stopped.
- No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield.
- It's against the law for any person to drive a motor vehicle through a column of school children crossing a street or highway, or past a member of a school safety patrol or adult crossing guard, while the member of the patrol is directing children to cross.



### Pedestrians:

- Move at a brisk pace when walking through an intersection.
- Make sure that motorists can see you; this can be done by making eye contact with a driver. Wearing bright-colored clothing is also recommended.
- If it's dark out, use a flashlight.
- Use sidewalks when provided.
- If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left side of the roadway (against the flow of traffic) so you can see oncoming traffic.
- If there is a traffic signal, obey it.

### Parents:

- Teach children to cross at intersections and crosswalks and look before entering the street.
- It's never a good idea for children to play in the street, no matter how quiet the neighborhood. Encourage them to use parks and playgrounds instead.
- Show children what different signs and signals mean and the proper way to obey them.
- Practice crossing the street with your child to help them judge how long it takes to cross the street.
- Remind children to follow school bus rules. ☺

## Southwest Twin Cities Beyond the Yellow Ribbon kickoff is Tuesday, September 11

**B**YOND THE YELLOW RIBBON IS A statewide program designed to establish and create awareness of a support network of agencies, organizations and resources that can meet the needs of service members, military families and employers in Minnesota.

For the past few months, community members from the cities of Minnetonka, Edina, Excelsior, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and Wayzata have been meeting to form the Southwest Twin Cities Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Coalition, which will work together to meet the requirements of the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program for these cities. More community volunteers are needed to work on this effort.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Southwest Twin Cities Yellow Ribbon Coalition, plan to attend a kick-off meeting Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 5:30 p.m. at the Hopkins VFW, 100 Shady Oak Road, Hopkins. A meal will be served.

After viewing a presentation about the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program, potential volunteers will be split into seven groups to begin discussing how to meet the requirements of the program. The groups, by interest area, are city leadership, public safety, faith-based organizations, veteran organizations, business/employers, social services/medical providers and educators/youth providers.

For more information, email [announce-subscribe@sw-btyr.org](mailto:announce-subscribe@sw-btyr.org). ☺

## Minnetonka is Open to Business

**I**F YOU'RE THINKING OF STARTING YOUR own business, or if you already own a small business and want assistance in taking the next step, the Minnetonka Open to Business Program might be just what you need!

This collaborative program of the city and the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD) provides expert one-on-one assistance customized to meet the needs of small business owners and operators. Clients receive help in planning and organizing business ventures, financial management, marketing and regulatory compliance. A small business loan fund also can help entrepreneurs access the capital they need to grow their business.

For more information about Open to Business, contact Rob Smolund at MCCD at (612) 789-7337, ext. 11. ☺



## Watch for school children this fall

**W**ITH CHILDREN BACK IN SCHOOL, the school buses will be busy on the streets, in neighborhoods and on work commute routes. Please be aware of school buses, the children they carry and the stops they make. Use extra caution driving near children and school buses.

The Minnetonka Fire Department public educators wish you all a safe and healthy start to the new school year, and we look forward to sharing fire and life safety messages with elementary and secondary school children in Minnetonka this fall. ☺

## City offers home improvement, home buyer loans

**D**O YOU NEED A NEW FURNACE OR windows before the snow flies? Would you like to stop renting and purchase your first home, but need money for a down payment or for closing costs? The city has loan programs that may help you:

- **Minnetonka Home Enhancement:** Provides up to \$15,000 for home repair, green improvements and some additions. Household income limits apply.
- **Welcome to Minnetonka:** Provides up to \$10,000 for down payment and closing costs for first-time homebuyers. Household income limits apply.



The city is now taking pre-applications for both programs. Pre-applications and program guidelines are available on the city's website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or by calling (952) 939-8285. ☺

## Williston Center hosts open house Sept. 30

**W**ONDERING ABOUT WILLISTON FITNESS Center? Visit an open house Sunday, Sept. 30, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. From the fitness room to the Treehouse, enjoy activities for all ages at this free event! Child care will be available.

Activities include:

### 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

20-minute demos of group fitness classes.

### 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

30-minute tennis court reservation on newly resurfaced court. Limit one 30-minute time slot per person; advance registration required by emailing [febon@eminnetonka.com](mailto:febon@eminnetonka.com).

### 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

- Meet and greet the Runners Club.
- Swim in the 25-yard pool and zero-depth splash pad.
- Body fat and weight measurements by certified personal trainers.
- Climbing in the three-story indoor play structure, the Treehouse.

Prize drawing, including free personal training session, one-month family membership, free birthday party and more. Some exclusions may apply.

Local fitness vendors will be on hand, along with the ICA Foodshelf. Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate. ☺



Visit Williston Center free Sept. 30. Photo courtesy of Jason Stenvold.

## Sign up for fall preschool, youth activity classes

**A**RE YOU LOOKING FOR ACTIVITIES for your child? If so, check out the various opportunities below. More classes are available for the fall season. To register or for more information, call (952) 939-8203 or see the online recreation brochure at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

### Science Explorers

#### Musical Science

*Tuesday, September 25, 12:45–2 p.m.*

Learn how sound travels, discover and learn about octaves and make your own simple music instrument. Ages 3.5–6. Cost: \$12.

### Kindermusik

#### Village

*Tuesdays, Sept. 11–Dec. 18*

*(No class Nov. 20), 9–9:45 a.m.*

Through a blend of creative movement, vocal play, instrument exploration, and literature, baby's growth and development are stimulated and all senses engaged. For ages birth–18 months (with adult). Cost: \$130, with a materials fee of \$60 due to instructor at first class.

#### Our Time

*Tuesdays, Sept. 11–Dec. 18*

*(No class Nov. 20), 10–10:45 a.m.*

Encourages children to be curious and creative with music. For ages: 18 months–3 years (with adult); Cost: \$140, with a materials fee of \$55 due to instructor at first class.

#### Imagine That

*Tuesdays, Sept. 11–Dec. 18 (No class*

*November 20), 11–11:45 a.m.*

This class is for the imaginative preschooler who is ready for their own class with plenty of activities. Ages: 3–5 (children only). Cost: \$150, with a materials fee of \$65 due to instructor at first class.

### AbraKadoodle

#### Mommy/Daddy & Me Art Class

Wednesdays, Sept. 26–Oct. 31 from 10–10:45 a.m. at the Glen Lake Activity Center. Spend the morning doing fun art projects and crafts with your precious little one. Explore a new art medium each week. Ages 20 months–4 years. Cost: \$88. ☺

## Registration open for ice skating lessons

**S**IGN UP FOR WINTER ICE SKATING lessons with the Minnetonka Ice Arena's All Season Skating School! The lesson program is endorsed by the Ice Skating Institute and offers instruction for skaters ages 3 and up, including adults. Class information and registration materials are available by calling the Minnetonka Ice Arena at (952) 939-8310 or visiting [http://www.eminnetonka.com/recreation/facilities/ice\\_arena.cfm](http://www.eminnetonka.com/recreation/facilities/ice_arena.cfm). The 12-week session begins September 11. Register now as space is limited! ☺



*Photo courtesy of Jason Stenvold*

## Help support Music, Theater in the Park

**M**ORE THAN 2,000 PEOPLE ENJOYED this year's Music in the Park performances at the outdoor amphitheater at the Minnetonka Civic Center Campus—double the number who attended when this program started in 2010.

This community event, offered at no cost, is a gathering place for people of all ages to enjoy a wide variety of music and to visit with their friends and neighbors.

Planning for 2013 Music in the Park performances is already underway. If you are a business or individual who would like to support this program to ensure its continuing quality, please consider a sponsorship of one or more performances!

In exchange for your sponsorship of a performance (starting at \$500), you'll be listed as the sponsor in promotional materials and signs, and have the opportunity to promote your business to audience members.

Additional sponsorship opportunities are available for Theater in the Park, offered each year in partnership with Minnetonka Theatre.

For more information about either sponsorship contact Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at [jl Larson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jl Larson@eminnetonka.com) or (952) 939-8207. Deadline for sponsorships is November 30, 2012. ☺



*This year's Music in the Park performances were attended by 2,000 people.*

## Join these September senior center activities

**P**LAN TO ATTEND ONE OF THESE activities offered this month for adults 55-plus, all of which are advertised in a weekly email as well as a free monthly publication, the *Minnetonka Script*. Subscribe to one or both of these publications by visiting [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com), or contact Nicole Gorman at [ngorman@eminnetonka.com](mailto:ngorman@eminnetonka.com) or (952) 939-8369.

To register, or for general information about any of the activities listed below, call (952) 939-8393.

### Book & Pie Sale

*Sept. 11, 12–6 p.m.*

Most books \$1. Book donations accepted Sept. 7 & 10, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Call (952) 939-8393 for information.



*Don't miss the annual book sale on Sept. 11*

### Gettysburg Travelogue

*Sept. 12, 10:30 a.m.*

Enjoy a historical travelogue of the three-day battle of Gettysburg. Light lunch served after the presentation. Cost is \$6, due by Sept. 10.

### Fall Dinner Party

*Sept. 13, 5:30 p.m.*

Enjoy an evening of Dixieland, gospel and all that jazz with the Jumpin' Jehosafats. Baked lasagna, salad, garlic bread and dessert will be served. Cost is \$7, due by Sept. 10

### Grief 101

*Sept. 19, 10:30 a.m.*

Learn how to help yourself and others through the grief process. Cost is \$2, due by Sept. 17

### Navigating Medicare

*Sept. 19, 6:30–9 p.m.*

Learn about Medicare Parts A, B and D. Cost is \$10, due by Sept. 17.

### The World of Frank Lloyd Wright

*Sept. 25, 10:30 a.m.*

Enjoy a presentation about America's most famous architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. Cost is \$2, due by Sept. 21.

### Garden Club

*2nd Mondays, 1 p.m.*

Whether you're new to gardening or an old pro, consider joining the garden club!

### Classes

Call (952) 939-8393 for information.

### British History: Scotland Explored

*Thursdays, Sept. 6–27, 1–3 p.m. (\$25)*

### Zumba Gold Exercise

*Mondays, Sept. 17–Oct. 29, 1–2 p.m. (\$25)*

### Beginning Bridge

*Mondays, Sept. 17–Oct. 22, 1–3 p.m. (\$35)*

### Botanical Art Class

*Sept. 19 & 26, 1–2:30 p.m. (\$40)*

### Beginning Line Dance

*Thursdays, Sept. 20–Oct. 11, 12:30–1:30 p.m. (\$20)*

### Defensive Driving

To register, call the Minnesota Safety Center at 1-888-234-1294 or visit [www.mnsafetycenter.org](http://www.mnsafetycenter.org). AAA members receive \$3 off class registration by providing member number and expiration date.

### Four-Hour Day Course

*Sept. 6, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.*  
Refreshments provided (no meal).  
Cost: \$20

### Four-Hour Evening Course

*Sept. 25, 6–10 p.m.*  
Refreshments provided. Cost: \$20

### 8-Hour Course

*Sept. 18 & 20, 6–10 p.m.*  
Refreshments provided. Cost: \$24 ☺

## Sign up for youth, adult basketball; parent's night out

### Youth basketball league

Join the Hopkins-Minnetonka Youth Basketball League today and be a part of this local tradition. The program is an in-house recreational league for boys and girls in grades 2–6 living in the Hopkins–Minnetonka area. Separate boys and girls teams are formed by school and grade. Games will be played on Saturdays starting December 1 and concluding on February 2 for second graders and February 23 for grades 3–6. Grades 3–6 will have one weekday evening practice starting the week of November 12. For second grade only, practice will be held on Saturday before each game starting December 1. The cost is \$45 for Grade 2 and \$85 for Grades 3–6, through September 14. Price increases to \$55 and \$95 between September 15 and October 12. Volunteer coaches are needed for this program. Teams are formed by school and grade. Please call Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203 to register.

### Adult basketball

A five-player, officiated adult basketball league is offered Wednesday evenings starting October 31. This 11-week program offers three divisions of ability with a chance to participate in a state tournament. Games will be played using full-size courts at Hopkins High School, the Lindbergh Center and the Hopkins West Junior High Activity Structure. \$525 per team. Call Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203 to register.

### Parent's Night Out: October 5

Need a night away from the kids? Bring them to the Williston Center for a night of fun Friday, Oct. 5. The kids will enjoy a pizza dinner, swim, play in the Williston Treehouse, play games, make arts and crafts and watch a movie! Dinner will be at 6 p.m. Drop your kids off at 5:30 p.m. and pick them up by 10 p.m. Be sure to pack a swimsuit and towel. Children must be potty trained and four- and five-year old children will be restricted to the zero depth splash pad pool. Cost: \$26 for one child and \$10 per child for families with multiple children attending. Call Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203 to register. ☺



## Follow us on Twitter!



GET YOUR NEWS DELIVERED VIA "tweets!" You can receive news releases, project updates, meeting agendas and minutes and much more, by following the city on Twitter: @MinnetonkaMN. ☺

## Historical society hosts fall meeting

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED why the only portion of Lake Minnetonka in the city of Minnetonka is named Gray's Bay?

Learn about Minnetonka pioneers Amos and Susan Gray, for whom Gray's Bay is named, at a Minnetonka Historical Society program Tuesday, October 2, at 7 p.m. in the community room of the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard.

Presenters Kate Getten Vlach and Deanne Straka, the great-great grandchildren of Amos and Susan, have compiled extensive research on their family and look forward to sharing a slide show and discussion with the audience. Everyone is welcomed to attend this program. ☺



"Tranquil Gray's Bay," 2008 Photo Contest

## Learn to grow fruit trees and shrubs

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GROWING your own fruit? Have you wondered what varieties are most hardy for a Minnesota climate and where to plant them in your yard? Do you know how to maintain your fruit trees and shrubs to ensure best fruit production?

Learn the answers to these questions and more during a session with Rebecca Koetter, a professional with a passion for edible landscaping. Rebecca previously managed the demonstration plots at the Urban Forestry & Horticulture Research Institute at the University of Minnesota.

During her presentation, set for Thursday, September 13, from 6:30–8:30 p.m. at Minnetonka City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, Rebecca will focus on a few of the most common fruit trees and shrubs, and will also suggest a few interesting varieties to try. The first hour will cover species selection, with the second half covering basic care.

Registration is required and limited to 40. Please RSVP by calling Public Works at (952)988-8400 or register online at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). ☺

## Visit the farmers' market through Oct. 2

THE MINNETONKA FARMERS' MARKET takes place every Tuesday, from 3–7 p.m., through October 2, in the Minnetonka Ice Arena B parking lot, located at the Minnetonka Civic Center Campus at 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

Visit vendors selling produce, meat, canned goods, salsa, honey, baked goods, flowers, sauces, apples and crafts. Concessions are also available—fresh-popped popcorn, canned soda and bottled water from the Minnetonka Senior Center volunteers. All proceeds benefit the Minnetonka Senior Center. Parking is available in the city hall parking lot or the Ice Arena A parking lot.

Want to be sure you know what's happening each week? Sign up for the farmers' market e-newsletter, delivered to your email each Monday with that week's market news! Visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for information. ☺



Produce abounds at the market!

## Collect fall seeds at Lone Lake Sept. 13

DIRECT SEEDING IS A FUN AND inexpensive way to experiment with reforestation and habitat restoration. Join Janet Van Sloun, Minnetonka natural resource specialist, and the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District in looking for seeds of native trees, shrubs and wildflowers at Lone Lake Park Thursday, September 13, from 6–7:30 p.m.

You'll visit the sunny rain gardens where native species have produced fruits and seeds, walk in the woods to find seeds of

native wildflowers, collect seeds for re-seeding in the park and to take home, learn advantages and disadvantages to collection and direct-seeding and learn about seeds of the bad plants, too.

Lone Lake Park is located at 5624 Shady Oak Road, Minnetonka. Meet in the lower parking lot, below the tennis courts. Registration is required. Register online at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or call Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400. ☺

## Ask Mike: All about autumn firewood

**N**OW THAT THE TEMPS ARE NO LONGER in the triple digits, you might start thinking about using your recreational firepit again, or about hauling firewood to a camp site. Remember, when you move firewood in your vehicle, you could be rapidly transporting a nasty disease or insect to a new area. This month, Mike answers your questions about firewood. If you have more questions after reading this article, contact Minnetonka City Forester Emily Ball at (952) 988-8421.

*Dear Mike:*

*Is it really a big deal to move firewood that has been cut up and sitting for years in Minnetonka up to a cabin in Brainerd, especially if that cut wood is going to be burned within a couple months?*

*Sincerely, G. Tree*

**Dear G. Tree:**

Since you live in Hennepin County, and it's **illegal to move firewood out of Hennepin or Ramsey County**—yes, it's a big deal. When the nasty non-native invasive emerald ash borer was detected in St. Paul, the state enacted a quarantine that specifically restricts all firewood leaving Hennepin or Ramsey County. This means firewood cut up in Minnetonka cannot leave Hennepin or Ramsey County without violating the state quarantine. It can be moved within the two counties, but not outside.

According to the quarantine language, "firewood" means wood cut to lengths less than four feet long. This includes firewood cut for personal use. There are a few exceptions to the quarantine, one of which is debarked firewood that is heat treated in a kiln.

Additionally, if the tree died from oak wilt disease, the disease could be spread to new areas if the firewood is moved before the wood is completely dried out or if it has loose, sloughing-off bark. It may also harbor two-lined chestnut borer larvae, a native insect that can kill stressed or weakened oak trees.

To learn more about the quarantine, visit <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eab/eabquarantine.aspx>.

Theoretically, if the oak wood is left in sections larger than four feet, you could transport it. Wood greater than four feet in

length is defined by the quarantine as a log. Ash logs, however, would be illegal to transport out of Hennepin or Ramsey County.

*Dear Mike:*

*Does emerald ash borer larva live in any kind of firewood, or just ash?*

*Miss L. Toe*

**Miss L. Toe:**

A bit of good news for you here! Emerald ash borer (EAB) only lives in ash trees. One of the reasons the quarantine restricts transport of all (non-coniferous) hardwood firewood is because firewood-sized pieces can make tree species identification challenging. By restricting all hardwood firewood, it makes the quarantine more manageable to enforce.

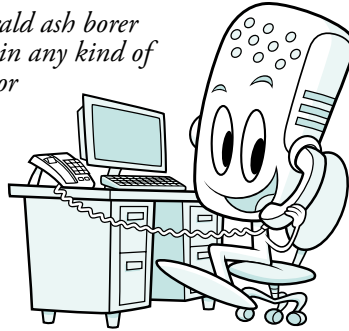
Additionally, most people do not sort their wood piles by species, so if a truck filled with firewood was pulled over along the road crossing county line it ensures that one or two pieces of ash wood potentially harboring EAB are not missed in the pile.

The rule of thumb (even before the more restrictive rules of the quarantine were enacted) is not to buy or transport firewood greater than 100 miles from your destination, since many insects and diseases can be spread through firewood. Due to increased trading with other countries, it's hard to predict what the next nasty invasive, non-native insect or disease might be, so it's important to change our habits of hauling firewood long distances in order to reduce the chance these insects and diseases will spread to new areas.

For more on firewood visit <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/en/plants/pestmanagement/firewood.aspx>.

If you only plan to burn firewood in Minnetonka, first be sure to obtain a recreational fire permit from the Minnetonka Fire Department.

For firewood questions, contact Emily Ball at 952-988-8421. ☺



## Two buckthorn workshops offered: Sept. 19 & Oct. 4

**H**AVE YOU BEEN REMOVING BUCKTHORN, but wonder if there might be an easier way? "Managing Woodlands: Buckthorn and Beyond" can help you get out and mark native species among the buckthorn before the leaves drop. Attend one of two workshops, held Wednesday, Sept. 19 or Thursday, Oct. 4, 6:30–8:30 p.m., at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka.

Topics covered include:

- Forest structure and diversity, and how it is affected by invasive species.
- How gradual, prioritized removal is usually better for a site than an understory clear-cut, especially if garlic mustard is present.
- Avoiding the most common buckthorn removal errors.
- Reducing erosion on slopes.
- How to save high-value remnant plant species.
- Recommended native species for understory reforestation.

This free workshop is hosted by Janet Van Sloun, city of Minnetonka natural resource specialist. Handouts will be provided. Please RSVP online at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or call Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400. ☺

## Photo contest entries due Friday, Sept. 7

**D**ON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT YOUR city photo contest entries by September 7! Information and entry forms are available at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com), or in the August *Minnetonka Memo*. Questions? Contact Jacque Larson at [jl Larson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jl Larson@eminnetonka.com) or (952) 939-8207. Entries will be displayed at the October 9 Open House event. ☺

## Apply now for a clean water grant

**C**ONCERNED ABOUT PROTECTING our lakes, wetlands, and streams? Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) can help. Since 1998 the MCWD has been providing grants through the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund, which supports projects that improve water quality through community service and involvement, education, and innovation.

A healthy community is important to healthy waters and polluted stormwater runoff is one of the biggest water quality problems in Minnesota and across the country. In developed areas, rainwater runs off roads, parking lots and rooftops, carrying dirt, fertilizer, pesticides, and other harmful material into lakes, streams and wetlands.

The Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund allows MCWD to partner with local communities, schools, civic groups, non-profit groups and others to engage citizens in activities that protect and provide clean water.

Examples of previously funded projects include development and production of educational materials, videos, and guides; restoration projects along water bodies; holding workshops or developing training programs, and innovative demonstration projects that involve and educate the community. Funded activities must result in water quality improvement and/or greater public awareness of ways people can protect local lakes, streams and wetlands.

Project proposals are due by September 26, 2012. Grant requests are limited to \$25,000, and funded activities must take place within the boundaries of the MCWD. For more information, contact Leslie Yetka, MCWD Education Manager, at (952) 641-4524 or [lyetka@minnehahacreek.org](mailto:lyetka@minnehahacreek.org) or visit <http://minnehahacreek.org/CynthiaKrieg>.



**MINNEHAHA CREEK  
WATERSHED DISTRICT**

## Leave your bad yard habits behind

**A**S THE COOLER DAYS OF FALL ARRIVE, you may start thinking about preparing your yard for winter. A little thought and planning can help make the task safer and healthier while helping to protect the natural world. It's a great time of year to break bad habits and explore new ideas!

### Breaking bad habits

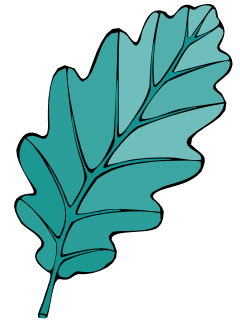
As a gentle reminder, these bad habits are also illegal—so out with old and in with the new this fall!

- Don't blow or rake leaves into wetlands, stormwater ponds, lakes, creeks or public properties. While leaves are natural, they also contain large amounts of nutrients that end up in the water and promote the growth of algae and weeds. They also cover and suppress the growth of native vegetation while allowing invasive and weedy species an opportunity to take hold.
- Don't dispose of yard wastes in the street by blowing, raking or dumping. It's unsafe for cars and bikes, can plug storm drains and cause street flooding and will wash into any adjacent wetlands, lakes or other water bodies.
- Don't burn yard wastes. It can be dangerous as well as harmful to the air we all breathe. Fireplaces and fire pits are meant for firewood, not debris and leaves. If you have an outdoor recreational fire, you should have a

permit from the Minnetonka Fire Department—and the burning of leaves and brush isn't allowed.

### Try these new ideas!

- Compost your leaves and grass clippings. Use the compost in your planting beds for weed control and to add nutrients to the soil. Compost also can be mixed with grass seed to make your own lawn patch mix. Be sure to mix your compost periodically with a pitch fork or shovel for even decomposition.
- Mulch your leaves in place with your mower. Shred them enough so they don't smother your grass. Leaves should be dry (wet leaves won't shred) and the mower blade should be sharp. It may take a few extra passes with the mower if you have an area that is extra thick with leaves, so mowing a little each week works better than waiting until all the leaves have fallen.
- Use the city drop-offs (see p. 11) or your curbside yard waste service from your garbage hauler to dispose of yard wastes properly. ♻️



## Keep watering trees and shrubs this fall

**T**REES AND SHRUBS (EVEN MATURE ONES) need about one inch of water per week, so if rain isn't meeting that requirement be sure to supplement with hand watering.

Drought conditions can cause trees and shrubs to become stressed, predisposing them to other diseases and insect attacks as well as severe winter damage. The late summer and fall of 2011 were very dry, leading many trees into winter drought stress. When trees and shrubs start winter with a water deficit, expect to see browning needles and tip dieback. Sometimes winter damage can kill plants entirely, and other times it just stresses the plant significantly, causing aesthetic damage.

Help winterize your trees and shrubs by

ensuring they are properly watered not only during the water-stressed summer months but also well into autumn until the ground freezes. Don't be tempted to shut off your outside water connection too early—in Minnesota, you could water plants as late as November, depending on how warm the weather remains.

Another side benefit of fall watering is that tree roots grow the most during two seasons of the year: spring and autumn. Take advantage of the season to ensure your plants' root systems are at their healthiest.

For more information about proper watering, visit the city's reforestation information at [http://www.eminnetonka.com/public\\_works/natural\\_resources/forestry/watering\\_trees.cfm](http://www.eminnetonka.com/public_works/natural_resources/forestry/watering_trees.cfm)





## 2012 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

# Special one-day drop-off

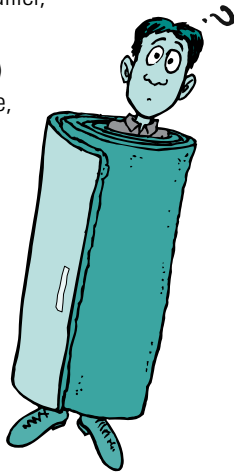
**Saturday, September 15**

**8 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

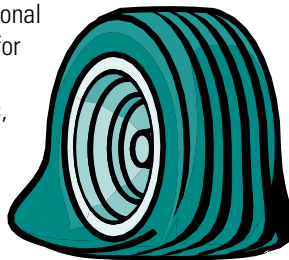
Minnetonka Public Works  
**11522 Minnetonka Blvd.**  
 East entrance by recycling center

Minnetonka residents may drop off the materials listed below. The charge for dropping off each item, if any, is listed in parentheses.

- **Air conditioner or water softener (\$20)**
- **Appliances (\$12 each)**  
 Washer, dryer, dishwasher, stove, oven, cooktop, microwave, freezer, refrigerator, water heater, home furnace, trash compactor, garbage disposer, humidifier, dehumidifier.
- **Batteries (No charge)**  
 All car, truck, motorcycle, ATV, snowmobile and garden tractor batteries are accepted, as well as household batteries (D, C, AA, AAA, 6- and 9-volt cells, button batteries and rechargeable batteries).
- **Bicycles (No charge)**  
 Bicycles brought to the special drop-off will be given a second chance by Re-Cycle (612-209-6669).
- **Carpet & padding (\$1/sq. yd. for carpet and \$1/sq. yd. for padding)** Determine the number of square yards of carpet or room size the carpet came from. Roll carpet or pad and tape or tie rolls. Rolls must not exceed six feet in length or 12 inches in diameter.
- **Copier or fax machine (\$35, higher fee for larger items)**
- **Doors (\$2 and up, depending on size)**
- **Electronics (no longer accepted, see box at top right)**



- **Fluorescent lamps (No charge)**  
 Up to ten fluorescent bulbs will be accepted per vehicle. No lamps will be accepted from business or commercial use. Please transport lamps in a manner to avoid breakage. Don't tape bulbs!
- **Furniture:** Chairs (**\$5 – small, \$10 – large**); loveseat (**\$15**); couch/sofa (**\$20**); hide-a-bed (**\$30**); sectionals, dressers, chests, tables and other furniture (**\$5 and up depending on size**)
- **Lumber (\$2 minimum, based on \$25 per cubic yard)** No railroad ties, concrete or shingles.
- **Mattresses and box springs: (\$15 per piece for all sizes).** Mattresses are dismantled and acceptable materials recycled by the PPL Industries mattress recycling program.
- **Propane tanks:** Small (**\$1**); Large — over a 2-lb. tank (**\$5**)
- **Scrap metal — clean (no charge)**  
 Clean scrap metal means all plastic, rubber, wood, concrete and hazardous materials have been removed. Clean scrap metal includes pipe, gutters, swing sets, barbecues, ducting, fencing, etc.
- **Scrap metal — dirty (\$5)**  
 For example, lawn chairs with webbing, barbecues or lawn mower with wheels and/or non-metal parts still attached. All engines must be drained of oil and gas. Additional charges apply for riding mowers, garden tractors, snowblowers, or other large items.
- **Tires:** Car, trailer or light truck (**\$4 each**); tires on rim (**\$8**); tractor or truck tire on split rim (**\$30**)
- **Toilets and non-metal sinks (\$5 each)**
- **Windows (\$2 minimum, based on \$25 per cubic yard)**



### Electronic items no longer accepted at the special drop-off

Electronic items are no longer accepted at the special drop-off events. This includes TVs, radios, speakers, CDs, VCRs and DVD players, camcorders, cell phones, telephones, laptops, computers, printers and monitors. Drop-off options for electronics include the Hennepin County permanent drop-off sites (page 10); or any Best Buy or Staples store. ☺

Payment will be accepted in cash or local checks payable to the city of Minnetonka.

### NO GARBAGE OR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE WILL BE ACCEPTED.

**Please note:** Charitable organizations will **not** be at the special drop-off accepting clothing and household goods.

Local charitable organizations that accept clothing and household goods include the following:

- **ARC Hennepin Carver**  
 Pickup route info: (612) 866-8820
- **Bethesda Thrift Shop**  
 4749 Cty. Rd. 101, Minnetonka  
 (952) 939-0988
- **Families Helping Each Other**  
[www.fheo.org](http://www.fheo.org) (no furniture)  
 (612) 235-9336
- **Goodwill Industries**  
 13820 Wayzata Boulevard, Minnetonka  
 (952) 544-6648
- **Salvation Army**  
 Pickup route info: (612) 332-5585
- **Value Village Thrift Store**  
 2751 Winnetka Ave, New Hope  
 (763) 544-0006
- **Vietnam Vets**  
 Pickup route information: (651) 778-8387

For more information, call Dean Elstad at (952) 988-8430 or visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Spring 2013 special drop-off will be June 1. ☺

 **2012 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE**

## Year-round HHW drop-off sites

Residents may bring household hazardous waste (HHW) to either of Hennepin County's permanent drop-off facilities:



**1400 W. 96th St., Bloomington**  
**8100 Jefferson Hwy., Brooklyn Park**  
*There is no charge to drop off residential HHW.*



Facilities are open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Facilities are closed Sundays, Mondays, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

There is no charge to drop off residential HHW, but there is a limit to the annual quantities of materials dropped off or picked up. For more information visit [www.hennepin.us](http://www.hennepin.us) or call Hennepin County at (612) 348-3777.

**Household hazardous waste includes such items as** aerosol cans, auto wastes (including gasoline, used oil and oil filters), batteries, cleaners, fire extinguishers, herbicides, fluorescent, CFL and HID lamps, paint, pesticides, stain, solvents, thermometers, thermostats and switches containing mercury, thinners and rechargeable appliances and batteries.

Also accepted for no charge are consumer electronics (TVs, radios, stereos, VCRs, camcorders, telephones, computers, monitors and printers). No photocopiers or fax machines are accepted.

Household appliances (microwaves, water heater, stove, freezer, washer, dryer, etc.) may be dropped off for a \$15 fee.

Mattresses and box springs are only accepted at the Brooklyn Park drop-off facility for a fee of \$15 each. The fees and list of acceptable materials are determined by Hennepin County staff (cash, check, MasterCard or Visa accepted).

For more information call Hennepin County at (612) 348-3777 or visit the website at [www.hennepin.us/dropoffs](http://www.hennepin.us/dropoffs).

**Hennepin County Transfer Station and HHW Drop-Off — Brooklyn Park**

8100 Jefferson Hwy.

**Hennepin County Problem Material and HHW Drop-Off — Bloomington**

1400 W. 96th St.

## Join the Hennepin County Recycle Half Challenge

Hennepin County residents, businesses and organizations only recycle 38 percent of the more than one million tons of waste



produced every year in the county. By 2015, Hennepin County would like to see at least half of all the waste produced in the county recycled instead. You can help by taking the Great Hennepin County Recycle Half Challenge. Visit [www.recyclehalf.com](http://www.recyclehalf.com) to sign up for the challenge and learn how you can recycle more.

From junk mail to excess paint to food scraps — it takes a lot of time and money to deal with all of the garbage. By purchasing items that are overly packaged, disposable or of poor quality, your cash can soon end up as trash. Here are some steps you can take to reduce waste.

- Bring your own reusable mug or bottle for coffee and water.
- At the grocery store, buy in bulk and bring your own reusable shopping bags. Choose products with less packaging, rather than individually wrapped items.
- Before you buy a new item, think about how much you'll use it. Can you borrow or rent it, or purchase it used?
- Buy well, buy once. Well-designed and constructed products that are repairable will last longer and save money in the long run, even if they cost more initially.
- Sell, give away or donate usable clothing and household goods. See page 9 for a list of charitable organizations that accept donations.

## Pay your municipal utility bills online

Tired of dealing with paper utility bills from the city? Now you can receive and pay your municipal utility bills (water and sewer) electronically.

You can also choose to pay your bill online, either one time or on a recurring basis, using a credit card or bank account withdrawal.



It's easy to sign up and it's free! To sign up, grab your latest bill and look for this logo at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Click on the logo and follow the instruction. Questions? Call (952) 939-8200.



## 2012 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

# Fall Leaf Drop-Off Program Opens September 1

### Public Works Facility

11522 Minnetonka Blvd., ¼ mi. west of Cty. Rd. 73  
Enter on the west side of the building (near the Big Willow ball fields)

Leaves and non-woody yard waste (grass, weeds, pine cones and needles, garden trimmings, fruit, etc.) will be accepted from Minnetonka residents at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd., on the following days and times (same as the brush drop-off hours):

- **Mondays:** 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sept. 10, 17, 24; Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Nov. 5, 12  
(Closed Sept. 3 due to Labor Day)
- **Tuesdays:** 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25; Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23; Nov. 6, 13
- **Saturdays:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27; Nov. 3, 10, 17

Proper identification to verify Minnetonka residency (driver's license, state ID, or Minnetonka utility bill) is required each time a resident enters the site.

The city leaf drop-off site is bag-free. Residents will unbag their leaves and yard waste at the large bulk leaf pile and take all empty bags home for reuse or disposal — including paper and compostable bags.

Loads of leaves must be covered during transport! The suggested method of loading and transport is to use many tarps, each with a layer of leaves a foot or less. Use the tarps to gather up and move small piles of leaves from your yard to your trailer or vehicle, continuing to use lots of tarps until the vehicle is full. This makes unloading your leaves much faster and easier at the site, since all you need to do is flip the tarps one at a time to dump the leaves. If you don't use this method, please bring

proper equipment, such as a stout pitch fork, to unload your truck or trailer load of leaves.

Sticks and branches smaller than ½" in diameter are acceptable with leaves. Anything larger than ½" in diameter goes to the brush drop-off pile.

If you have other means of disposing of your leaves, such as collection by your garbage hauler or backyard composting, please use that option. For a fee (annual, monthly or per cart or bag), all garbage haulers offer curbside collection of yard waste on the same day as your garbage collection. The hauler yard waste collection usually runs April through November. Check with your garbage hauler for details. Please note state law requires using proper compostable bags for curbside collection of bagged yard waste — plastic bags are not acceptable. ♻️

### Labor Day delays recycling collection

The Labor Day holiday, Monday, September 3, will delay the recycling collection one day if it is your collection week. Residents whose collection is normally Monday will have collection Tuesday, Sept. 4,

and residents whose collection is normally Tuesday will have collection Wednesday, Sept. 5. Call (952) 941-5174 with questions. ♻️

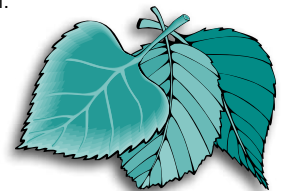


### Brush drop-off closed Sept. 3

The brush drop-off program for Minnetonka residents is open Mondays and Tuesdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Brush drop-off will be closed Monday, September 3, for the Labor Day holiday. Branches up to 12" in diameter will be accepted. This service is only available to Minnetonka residents. Proper I.D. proving residency is required each time a resident enters the site (driver's license, state ID or Minnetonka utility bill).

**Please note:** trash, metal, plastics, concrete, lumber, fences or wood scraps are not accepted. **Do not** bring these materials with your load of brush.

**Do not** put grass, loose leaves, dirt, sod or other non-woody materials in with the brush pile.



The brush drop-off is located at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. Use the west entrance near the Big Willow Park ball fields.

No brush will be accepted from commercial tree or lawn services. Brush drop-off closes November 18, 2012. For more information call (952) 988-8430. ♻️



Photo by Lisa Wandrei, 2007 Photo Contest entry

# minnetonka memo

September 2012



PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
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CITY OF MINNETONKA

A publication of the city of Minnetonka  
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, MN 55345 • (952) 939-8200  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday

#### Mayor

Terry Schneider.....(952) 939-8389  
..... Home: (952) 934-9529  
..... [tschneider@eminnetonka.com](mailto:tschneider@eminnetonka.com)  
Meetings with the mayor may be  
scheduled by calling (952) 939-8211.

#### City Manager

Geralyn Barone.....(952) 939-8200

#### Newsletter Editor

Jacque Larson.....(952) 939-8200

E-mail:..... [comments@eminnetonka.com](mailto:comments@eminnetonka.com)

Internet:..... [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com)

#### Council

*At Large:* Dick Allendorf... (952) 933-6231 [dallendorf@eminnetonka.com](mailto:dallendorf@eminnetonka.com)  
..... Patty Acomb... (952) 807-8635 [pacomb@eminnetonka.com](mailto:pacomb@eminnetonka.com)  
*Ward 1:* Bob Ellingson... (952) 931-3065 [bellingson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:bellingson@eminnetonka.com)  
*Ward 2:* Tony Wagner... (952) 512-1817 [twagner@eminnetonka.com](mailto:twagner@eminnetonka.com)  
*Ward 3:* Brad Wiersum... (612) 723-3907 [bwiersum@eminnetonka.com](mailto:bwiersum@eminnetonka.com)  
*Ward 4:* James Hiller... (952) 974-1003 [jhiller@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jhiller@eminnetonka.com)

Minnetonka Mike..... (952) 939-8586 [mike@eminnetonka.com](mailto:mike@eminnetonka.com)

**POLICE-FIRE: Emergency**..... 9-1-1

**Non-emergency**..... (952) 939-8500 or 9-1-1

ECRWSS  
POSTAL PATRON

## Calendar

City of  
Minnetonka

September  
2012

Call (952) 939-8200  
for meeting  
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.
						1	3 Labor Day, <i>city offices closed</i>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4 Minnetonka Farmers' Market, 3–7 p.m. 5 Park Board, 7 p.m.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	6 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	11 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Minnetonka Farmers' Market, 3–7 p.m.
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	12 City Council Study Session, 6:00 p.m. (Please note: This is a Wednesday)
30							18 City Council, 6:30 p.m. (Please note: This is a Tuesday); Minnetonka Farmers' Market, 3–7 p.m. 20 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m. 24 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.; Community Commission, 6:30 p.m. 25 Minnetonka Farmers' Market, 3–7 p.m. 27 Economic Development Authority Commission, 6 p.m.

All meetings listed above are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change—please check [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for the latest information.

Minnetonka City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 16, and replays are available Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at noon, or anytime via videostream at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Agendas for council meetings are available on the city's website by the Friday afternoon prior to the meeting, and planning commission agendas are available by the Monday prior to the meeting.

## Staying informed about city projects

THE CITY REGULARLY RECEIVES applications for projects that require planning commission and/or city council approval. Information on these, as well as many other city projects, is regularly updated on the city's website. If you'd like to stay informed, visit "MyMinnetonka" at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com)—click on "MyMinnetonka" under "Top Picks." Through MyMinnetonka, you can learn about new projects in the city; provide online feedback on projects during their approval process, and receive email updates on projects. Planning commission meeting agendas are posted the Monday prior to the meeting. Visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for information. ∞

## The Landing Shop

LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE GIFT? STOP BY The Landing Shop at 11280 Wayzata Blvd., Minnetonka, for bird houses, kitchen items, home décor, baby items, quilts, books by local authors, handmade purses and more. Shop is open Wednesday–Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Landing Shop is a program of Minnetonka Senior Services. ∞



The paper in this newsletter was manufactured with electricity in the form of renewable energy (wind, hydro, and biogas).

